



Robert Greene Sterne
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Horner
Robert C. Millonig
Donald J. Featherstone
Timothy J. Shea, Jr
Michael V. Messinger
Judith U. Kim

Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffrey T. Helvey
Heidi L. Kraus
Eldora L. Ellison
Thomas C. Fiala
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Brian J. Del Buono
Edward W. Yee
Vincent L. Capuano
Virgil Lee Beaton
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes
Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Rae Lynn P. Guest
Daniel A. Klein

Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael D. Specht
Tracy L. Muller
Jon E. Wright
LuAnne M. DeSantis
Ann E. Summerfield
Helene C. Carlson
Cynthia M. Bouchez
Timothy A. Doyle
Gaby L. Longworth
Lori A. Gordon
Laura A. Vogel
Bryan S. Wade
Bashir M.S. Ali
Shannon A. Carroll
Matthew E. Kelley
Michelle K. Holoubek
Marsha A. Rose

Christopher J. Walsh
W. Blake Coblenz*
James J. Pohl*
Young Tang
John T. Haran*
Mark W. Rygiel

Registered Patent Agents*
Karen R. Markowicz
Matthew J. Dowd
Katrina Yujian Pei Quach
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Victoria S. Rutherford
Simon J. Elliott
Julie A. Heider
Mita Mukherjee
Scott M. Woodhouse

Liliana Di Nola-Baron
Peter A. Socarras
Jeffrey K. Mills
Danielle L. Letting
Lori Brandes

Of Counsel
Edward J. Kessler
Kenneth C. Bass III
Marvin C. Guthrie

*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
*Practice Limited to
Federal Agencies

May 1, 2006

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 772-8615
INTERNET ADDRESS:
FRANKC@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 1652

Attn: Mail Stop Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/306,986; Filed: May 7, 1999
For: **A Method for Synthesizing a Nucleic Acid Molecule Using a Ribonuclease**
Inventors: Trinh *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4570001/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a);
2. Brief on Appeal Under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 along with Exhibits 1-4;
3. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of **\$2,660.00** to cover the following fees:

\$2,160.00 - Extension of Time fee;
\$500.00 - Brief on Appeal fee; and
4. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
May 1, 2006
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank R. Cottingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Cottingham" being more prominent.

Frank R. Cottingham
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 50,437

FRC/pcd
Enclosures

526396v1